

of foodgrains, Government has been implementing various schemes *viz.* National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), etc. to attain the production target.

(b) and (c) This Ministry assesses the fertilizer requirement on the season to season basis. Before each season *i.e.* Rabi and Kharif, this Ministry organizes Zonal Conference with States to assess the requirement of fertilizer and takes into account cropping pattern, cropped area, crop wise recommended dose of fertilizers, requirement of nutrients in soil as per soil health status and recommended doses, irrigated/rainfed area consumption pattern, etc. The total quantity of fertilizers assessed for 2019-20 will be 640.48 lakh million tonnes *i.e.* for kharif is 313.70 lakh million tonnes and for rabi is 326.78 lakh million tonnes in so far as, fertilizer requirement during 2025, it will be assessed as per the procedure indicated above.

As per information furnished by Department of Fertilizer, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, the actual production of all fertilizers during 2016-17 to 2019-20 (up to October, 2019) in India are given below:

Year	Actual production (in lakh metric tonnes)
2016-17	414.41
2017-18	413.61
2018-19	414.85
2019-20 (Up to October)	245.01

#### **Doubling income of farmers**

647. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has planned to increase the income of the farmers to double annually;
- (b) if so, the plan to double the income of farmers; and
- (c) the growth rate of agriculture in 2017-18, 2018-19 and at the end of second quarter of 2019-20?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) The Government constituted an Inter-ministerial Committee in April, 2016 to examine issues relating to "Doubling of Farmers Income" and recommend strategies to achieve the same. The Committee submitted its Report to the Government in September, 2018 and thereafter, an Empowered Body was set up on 23.01.2019 to monitor and review the progress against the recommendations. Due to the efforts made as part of schemes/programmes of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare which also aligns with the strategy of doubling farmers' income, there has been an appreciable improvement in efficiency bringing about a positive impact in the agriculture sector. Various interventions and schemes that have already been rolled out as envisaged in the recommendations of DFI Committee to double the income of farmers by 2022 are given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) As per Economic Survey 2018-19, the annual growth rate of Agriculture and allied sectors for the year 2017-18 is 5% and for the year 2018-19 is 2.7% (Provisional Estimate).

#### *Statement*

##### *Details of schemes for Doubling income of farmers*

The strategy of the Government is to focus on farmers' welfare by making farming viable. The schemes of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare focus on directly benefitting farmers through various interventions and schemes and include:-

- (i) Implementation of flagship scheme of distribution of Soil Health Cards to farmers so that the use of fertilizers can be rationalized.
- (ii) "Per drop more crop" initiative under which drip/sprinkler irrigation is being encouraged for optimal utilization of water, reducing cost of inputs and increasing productivity.
- (iii) "Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)" for promoting organic farming.
- (iv) Launch of e-NAM initiative to provide farmers an electronic transparent and competitive online trading platform.
- (v) With a view to provide better insurance coverage to crops for risk mitigation, a crop insurance scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

was launched from Kharif 2016 season. This scheme provides insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances, with low premium contribution by farmers.

- (vi) Under "Har Medh Par Ped", agro forestry is being promoted for additional income. With the amendment of Indian Forest Act, 1927, Bamboo has been removed from the definition of trees. A restructured National Bamboo Mission has been launched in the year 2018 to promote bamboo plantation on non forest government as well as private land and emphasis on value addition, product development and markets.
- (vii) Giving a major boost for the farmer's income, the Government has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSPs) for all Kharif & Rabi crops for 2018-19 season at a level of at least 150 percent of the cost of production.
- (viii) Giving a major boost to the pro-farmer initiatives, the Government has approved a new Umbrella Scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)'. The Scheme is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018. This is an unprecedented step taken by Govt. of India to protect the farmers' income which is expected to go a long way towards the welfare of farmers.
- (ix) Bee keeping has been promoted under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) to increase the productivity of crops through pollination and increase the honey production as an additional source of income of farmers.
- (x) Extending the reach of institutional credit to more and more farmers is priority area of the Government and to achieve this goal, the Government provides interest subvention of 3% on short-term crop loans up to ₹3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment.
- (xi) Government sets annual target for the flow of credit to the agriculture sector, Banks have been consistently surpassing the annual target. The current year's agriculture credit flow target has been set at ₹ 13.50 lakh crore.

- (xii) Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2018-19, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount. In order to discourage distress sale by farmers and to encourage them to store their produce in warehouses against negotiable receipts, the benefit of interest subvention will be available to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period of upto six months post harvest on the same rate as available to crop loan.
- (xiii) The Government has approved for giving the facility of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to the farmers practicing animal husbandry and fisheries related activities and has also decided to extend the Interest Subvention Facilities to such categories of farmers.
- (xiv) With a view to provide income support to all farmers' families across the country, to enable them to take care of expenses related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs, the Central Government started a new Central Sector Scheme, namely, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN). The scheme aims to provide a payment of ₹ 6000/- per year, in three 4-monthly installments of ₹ 2000/- to the farmers families, subject to certain exclusions relating to higher income groups.
- (xv) Further with a view to provide social security net for Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF) as they have minimal or no savings to provide for old age and to support them in the event of consequent loss of livelihood, the Government has decided to implement another new Central Sector Scheme for providing old age pension to these farmers. Under this Scheme, a minimum fixed pension of ₹ 3000/- will be provided to the eligible small and marginal farmers, subject to certain exclusion clauses, on attaining the age of 60 years.

#### **Distress sale of vegetables by farmers**

648. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to formulate any long term plan to prevent distress sale of vegetables by farmers which is witnessed almost every year, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and